



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

RECEIVED

2010 APR 28 PM 4:07

CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Chair, King County Council
King County Courthouse
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Ferguson:

I am pleased to transmit the King County Civil Rights Commission's 2009 Annual Report. This report is transmitted pursuant to KCC 3.10.030 F., which requires the Commission to submit reports to the Executive and to the County Council Committee of the Whole.

The King County Civil Rights Commission was established in December 1995 to take a leadership role in raising community awareness and involvement on civil rights issues and to advise the King County Executive and County Council on matters related to King County's civil rights programs. Its primary goal is to ensure equal opportunity for all through the effective enforcement of anti-discrimination ordinances and implementation of the county's civil rights programs. The commission works in collaboration with a variety of interest groups including community, business, civic, and religious organizations. Commissioners represent the diversity of King County in race, gender, education, careers, ethnicity and political beliefs. The commission has twelve positions which are all filled.

During 2009, the Commission continued to work with a number of community organizations, county department staff and the King County Sheriff's Office staff to further civil rights for residents of King County.

The Honorable Bob Ferguson

April 19, 2010

Page 2

If you have any questions about the King County Civil Rights Commission or would like additional copies of this annual report, please contact Commission Administrator Paula Harris-White, at 206-296-7485, or by e-mail, at: paula.harris-white@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Tom Bristow, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Civil Rights Commissioners

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)

Bailey deLongh, Director, Office of Civil Rights, DES

Paula Harris-White, Administrator, Civil Rights Commission, DES



King County

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner	Kevin Orme	District 1
Commissioner	Ethel Thomas	District 2
Commissioner	Cherif Sidialicherif	District 3
Commissioner	Heather M. Villanueva, Chair	District 4
Commissioner	Melissa Ponder,	District 5
Commissioner	George Pieper, Secretary	District 6
Commissioner	Patrick Osby	District 7
Commissioner	Hu Sims, Vice-Chair	District 8
Commissioner	K. Cyrus Habib	District 9
Commissioner	Robert Blumenfeld	At-Large
Commissioner	Michael Brown	At-Large
Commissioner	Natasha Burrowes	At-Large

The King County Civil Rights Commission was established in December, 1995 to take a strong leadership role in raising community awareness and involvement on civil rights issues and to advise the King County Executive and County Council on matters related to the County's civil rights programs. The Commission works in collaboration with a variety of interest groups including community, business, civic, and religious organizations.

On July 17, 2006, the size of the Commission was reduced from sixteen to twelve members by Ordinance 15548, to reflect the new size of the County Council. The Commission now has twelve members each serving three-year terms. County Council members representing each of the King County Council districts nominate nine members, while the remaining three serve as at-large members, selected by the County Executive. All Commission members are confirmed by the County Council and serve without pay. It is the goal of the County to recruit people from diverse ethnic and protected group backgrounds. The Commission seeks representation from the African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, Caucasian, GLBT, and Disability communities. Commissioners reside within King County.

As the County's citizen advisory commission on civil rights, the Commission is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the effectiveness and progress of the County's affirmative action, non-discrimination enforcement, and minority/women business utilization programs. It is also responsible for educating the public and concerned groups on methods to prevent and eliminate discrimination and advising King County government on human and civil rights issues. The Commission periodically issues reports on its findings and makes formal presentations before the King County Council. The ordinance creating the Commission also established four standing committees through which the work of the Commission is accomplished. They are the Executive, Public Policy, Economic Development, and Community Relations Committees.

The Executive Committee "performs administrative oversight activities of the commission, including representing the commission, conducting business outside of regular commission meetings, and performing other relating and necessary activities in the interest of ensuring an effective County human and civil rights commission." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (A).

The Public Policy Committee "shall review and make recommendations on legislation, public rules and/or policies related to any of the County's equal opportunity, affirmative action, disability access and minority and women's business utilization programs." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (B).

The Economic Development Committee "reviews and makes recommendations for enhancing opportunities for utilization and participation of minority and women businesses on County contracts and other related business development activities." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (C).

The Community Relations Committee "recommend[s] methods for educating concerned communities and the public at large on the work of the Commission and King County in advancing human and civil rights for all in the region and shall establish liaison with other regional and civil rights commissioners." K.C.C. Section 3.10.050 (D).

From 2007 through mid 2009, the Commission suspended the activities of the Public Policy, Economic Development and the Community Relations Committees, due to the number of vacancies on the Commission. It was agreed that the work of these committees would be performed by the full Commission. In February 2009, Commissioners decided to restore the Committee structure and the Committee met during the regular meeting time every month.

In February 2009, Heather Villanueva was elected Chair, Hu Sims was elected Vice-chair and George Pieper was elected Secretary, for a one year term ending December 2009. During this year, the Commission, under Heather Villanueva's leadership, accomplished a significant number of achievements. They include:

Performed Other Related and Necessary Activities In The Interest Of Ensuring an Effective County Human and Civil Rights Commission:

- Equality Day: This event was held on March 12th in Olympia and George Pieper attended on behalf of the Commission.
- King County Equity & Social Justice Initiative: At their annual retreat in June 2009, all Commissioners attended an Equity and Social Justice Initiative facilitator training session presented by Maria Carlos and Caren Adams from the Seattle/King County Public Health Department.
- Meetings with Appointing Council Members: Commissioners Orme, Thomas, Sidalicherif, Villanueva, Ponder, Osby, and Sims met with their Council Members and or staff to discuss the work of the Commission and the civil rights concerns of the Council Members,

Reviewed And Made Recommendations On Legislation, Public Rules And/Or Policies Related To Any Of The County's Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Disability Access And Minority And Women's Business Utilization Programs:

- Review of June 1, 2009 2008-2012 EEO/Affirmative Action Plan Progress Report: The Commission reviewed the Progress Report and submitted comments to Executive Triplett and Council Chair Dow Constantine on November 18, 2009.
- UN Declaration Calling for the Decriminalization of Homosexuality: The Commission discussed and researched this UN Declaration. A resolution was drafted in support but was not moved forward due to President Obama's action supporting the Declaration.

- Equity & Social Justice Initiative: The Commission began review of the draft Equity and Social Justice Initiative Ordinance, which they plan to continue in 2010.
- Promoting the Health and Safety of Immigrants Ordinance: The Commission reviewed researched this proposed ordinance.
- Law Enforcement Overview Board: Commissioners began a review of the various ordinances associated with this new agency.

Reviewed and Made Recommendations for Enhancing Opportunities for Utilization and Participation of Minority and Women Businesses on County Contracts and Other Related Business Development Activities:

- Contracting Opportunities Program: In May 2009, the Commission invited Sandy Hanks, Contract Compliance Supervisor in the Office of Business Development and Contract Compliance to attend a meeting with the Economic Development Subcommittee to discuss ways to reach out to more minority business owners for county contracts. As a result, Committee members were invited to join the 2010 Regional Contracting Forum Planning Committee.

Educated Concerned Communities and the Public at Large on the Work of the Commission and King County:

- Dr. Kunjufu Event: The Commission co-Sponsored a Community Presentation on Education featuring noted speaker, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, with Seattle Office of Civil Rights, Puget Sound Educational Service District, and Casey Family Programs in partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. Dr. Kunjufu's presentation to over 300 community members, educators, parents, youth, elected officials and government leaders focused on how to keep young men of color, particularly African-American, from dropping out of the educational system. Commissioners Brown, Burrowes, Sidialicherif, and Sims were in attendance.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration & Essay Contest: The Commission sponsored an Essay Contest on the theme of "Breaking Barriers" to encourage 8th grade students to think critically about Dr. King's legacy of peace and justice. They gave awards to three student winners at the King County Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest. The three essay winners were: Jaida Raquel Morgan of Seattle, from Lake Washington Girls Middle School, first prize winner of \$100; Katie Carroll of Kent, from Cedar Heights Middle School, second prize winner of \$75; and Indigo Trigg-Hauger of Redmond, from Kirkland Junior School, third prize winner of \$50. The contest was open to all 8th graders in public and private schools in King County. All essays were judged on the author's knowledge of Dr. King and his work in the Civil Rights Movement, originality of ideas, development of point of view, insight, and clarity of expression, organization, and grammar.

- 2009 African Heritage Unity Celebration, Feb. 7, 2009: Commissioner Ethel Thomas represented the Commission at this event.
- Speaker at Career Day: Commissioner Hu Sims prepared a PowerPoint presentation for a Career Day at Nelson Middle School in Renton, WA.
- National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance Conference: The Commission co-sponsored this 3 day August conference and Heather Villanueva, Commission Chair, served on the Planning Committee. There were over 400 in attendance from all over the country with the goal of addressing the stereotypes of APIs in the larger Gay community as well as build a national network of Queer API groups to support one another's work.
- Co-sponsored the Sixth Seattle Race Conference: The Commission continued to cosponsor this event, designed to create a shared understanding and language about the nature of racism, its modern day forms and the tools that can be used to end it, and to activate a "movement" for racial justice in Seattle that includes sustainable action components. Commissioners Michael Brown and Hu Sims served on the Planning Committee and the actual conference took place in October 24, 2009 at South Seattle Community College. This year the Commission presented a workshop on Equity and Social Justice, showed a video from the "Unnatural Causes" video series entitled, "Place Matters", which was followed by a facilitated discussion. The 2009 Conference theme was "Where Goes the Neighborhood?" Community Displacement and Equitable Development." Commissioners Blumenfeld, Brown, Burrowes, Osby, Pieper, Sidialicherif, Sims, Thomas, Orme and Villanueva were in attendance.
- 2009 Bush School Diversity Speakers Series: The Commission served as a co-sponsor.
- Relationship with King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO): In 2009, the Commission continued to have a positive working relationship with the King County Sheriff's Office, due to the collaborative efforts of Captain Kent Baxter and Commissioners. Commissioners Natasha Burrowes, Hu Sims and Cherif Sidialicherif attended NCBI COPS Training along with members of the King County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Burrowes also served on a KCSO/Community working group designed to address improved relations between he KCSO and the community.
- New County Executive: The Commission wrote a letter of welcome and congratulations to the newly elected County Executive, Dow Constantine
- Inauguration of Dow Constantine as New King County Executive: Commissioners Heather Villanueva, George Pieper and Ethel Thomas attended this event.

Commissioners and the Commission Administrator met and/or networked with the following community organizations during 2009:

- 0. Federal Way Diversity Commission
- 0. South King County Equity & Social Justice Initiative Human Services Coalition
- 0. Asian Counseling & Referral Service

- 0. Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC)
- 0. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally and March Planning Committee
- 0. Greater Seattle Business Association

Established Relationships with Other Regional Civil Rights Commissions:

- Joint Commission Meeting: On September 30, 2009, the Commission sponsored a meeting of all the civil rights, human rights and diversity commissions & committees in King County. The attendees included Grace Rawsthorne, City of Federal Way Diversity Commission; Barb Clark-Elliott, Kathleen Booner & Jerry Rerecich, City of Renton Advisory Commission on Diversity; Marvin Stern, City of Seattle Human Rights Commission; Falicia Ware-Green, City of Tukwila Equity & Diversity Committee; and Alexandra Davis, City of Auburn Multicultural Roundtable. The purpose of the meeting was to bring commissioners and committee members together to share information about their work and to look for ways they could work together. KCSO Captain Kent Baxter was also in attendance.
- Seattle Human Rights Commission: Co-sponsored the Annual City of Seattle Human Rights Day. A number of Commissioners attended this event.
- Federal Way Diversity Commission: Commissioner Patrick Osby served as a member of the MLK Day Celebration Volunteer Community Committee.

Administrative:

In 2009 Commissioners Patrick Osby, Kevin Orme and Cyrus Habib were appointed, bringing the full Commission membership to twelve. Mr. Habib was appointed to replace Shahzad Q. Qadri in District 9, who resigned due to increased work responsibilities.